

On Monday, U.S. Rep. Christopher Carney (D-PA) and I sent a bipartisan letter to the President moving to block the sale of smart weapons to Saudi Arabia unless the administration certifies to Congress that such weapons cannot harm U.S. forces or Israel. In a strong show of bipartisan unity on this issue, 186 Republican and Democrat members of Congress signed our letter.

Last week, the Administration informally notified Congress of its intention to sell Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia. JDAMs are satellite-guided bombs that are extraordinarily accurate. You can read more about these “smart weapons” [here](#) .

The Administration says the arms sale is part of strategic effort to counter the growing regional threat of Iran. While I agree that a nuclear Iran with ballistic missile capability would pose grave dangers to the United States, Europe and Israel, I believe that selling smart weapons to Saudi Arabia would harm U.S. national security rather than strengthen it.

When we look at the history of Saudi Arabia – like other undemocratic countries – long term stability is not a familiar phrase. In 1964, King Saud was deposed and replaced by King Faisal. In 1975, King Faisal was assassinated by his nephew and replaced by King Khalid. In 1985, King Khalid was replaced by the late King Fahd. As policymakers, we must prepare for all contingencies.

Today, Saudi groups export Wahabi extremist ideology throughout the world – an anti-American ideology we face in over a dozen countries. If the current government fell and these Wahabi forces took power, Americans in uniform in the region would be in grave danger. Many of us remember when advanced F-14 Tomcat fighters were provided to the Kingdom of Iran only to see these airplanes become the backbone of the Ayatollah's air force. Only with iron-clad guarantees will we learn this lesson.

Our bipartisan letter to the President is clear. The administration must guarantee that the JDAMs sold to Saudi Arabia cannot harm U.S. forces or Israel – now or at anytime in the future. Without this guarantee, we will oppose the sale.



A Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM)